

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 State Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037

Special Town Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 27, 2022 @ 5:30PM

This Meeting is IN PERSON (Town Hall) For Board Members With the Exception of
Extraordinary Circumstances,

IN PERSON and VIRTUAL for the Public

GOOGLE MEET: meet.google.com/dbj-uktf-zsf

JOIN BY PHONE: US) [+1 636-373-8065](tel:+16363738065) PIN: 879423827#

PRESENT

Supervisor Donal Collins, Councilmembers Abi Mesick, Rick Werwaiss, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel

VIRTUAL

Councilmembers Vance Pitkin, Destiny Hallenbeck,

Supervisor Collins called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bond Act Discussion

Collins - we received research information from David Levow and he hopes the Board has had a chance to review it.

Werwaiss - we have David's information and there are 2 questions. Levow reiterated the questions: How much of the Fund will flow down to the Town of Chatham? Werwaiss said it's not possible to predict how much money Chatham will get. It will all depend on how well Chatham does at pursuing grants. 60 % will be allocated to rural communities and those seeking grant money,

Hallenbeck - The Disadvantaged Communities list has not been finalized yet. The environment isn't something where we can put ourselves in a bubble. So, I just want to raise that point of like, if Hudson benefits from this more than we do we're still breathing the same air. You see the same similar water system.

Collins - the State should cooperate with surrounding states and Canada on climate issues

Pitkin - David Levow discovered that this can be rebonded indefinitely, nothing short of a Ponzi scheme. It's irresponsible. Since this can be rebonded they can increase the amount as much as they want and there is no definite plan to pay it back, about \$400/per taxpayer.

Werwaiss - wants to take a vote right now. NYS does not historically rebond. As far as the \$400 goes he hasn't seen anything along those lines.

Levow - over the 15 or 20 year period it's not unusual to rebond when matured. But prices of goods and services increase so it balances itself. No data to support that it

Werwaiss - in the end the state will have to budget spend money in a way so state doesn't have to spend money later to deal with disaster. Preemptive attempt not to be at the mercy of

What is a family sustaining job asked Collins - a job that pays enough to support a family. Asked if these proposed 84, 000 jobs this Bond Act would generate are sustaining.

Hallenbeck - is voting yes. Her family planning has a lot to do with climate change. IF we don't do something about climate change we will not have the same world. NYS will be a place where people can come when the rest of the world is experiencing climate events. Need to do action now while we have the chance.

Pitkin - nobody wants dirty water or air. We will all have the opportunity on election day to vote on the Bond Act. Doesn't see any reason for TOC to adopt a resolution. , doesn't see why we vote on the Town level.

Mesick - we need to listen and respect everyone's opinion. The enormity of the facts and figures. There are still unanswered questions. By the Town supporting this it says that we take this seriously.

Collins - has concerns with some of the language but he fully endorses the Town of Chatham supporting this. It's a good faith effort by the State to address the issues that were facing. Mesick - when Rick was talking about what's down the road NYS will most likely become a bread basket. We need to think carefully before we move forward and how can we best do that?

Resolution#187-22: To Support the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 (Tabled on 10-20-2022)

WHEREAS, providing clean drinking water and protecting our local rivers, bays, lakes, streams and waterfronts from pollution is paramount to quality of life in New York State and the Town of Chatham; and,

WHEREAS, modernizing water infrastructure will safeguard clean water, reduce flooding, reduce lead exposure and other public health threats, and create jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chatham and neighboring municipalities within Columbia County are vulnerable to extreme weather including deadly heat from rising temperatures and flooding from severe storms that put people, properties and public assets across the Town at risk; and

WHEREAS, upgrading transportation and stormwater infrastructure, restoring natural resources, growing urban forests, building green roofs and upgrading cooling centers will reduce the impact of extreme weather, saving lives and money; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of outdoor recreation and access to fresh, local food, as people flocked to local parks and sought out healthy foods for their families; and

WHEREAS, upgrades to facilities at state and local parks and preserves and the creation of new outdoor recreational areas will benefit our region by protecting wildlife habitat, providing more people access to nature, and creating jobs in the outdoor recreation economy; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 would authorize the four billion and two hundred million dollars of bonds to finance critical environmental restoration, clean water, and infrastructure projects across New York State; and

WHEREAS, the funds would be targeted towards protecting clean water, reducing flood risk, restoring natural resources, protecting open space and farmland, and reducing the pollution that causes climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 was passed by the New York State Legislature as part of the 2022-23 New York State Budget and will appear on the November 8, 2022, New York State General Election Ballot for voter approval; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 includes strong labor provisions and will support more than 84,000 family-sustaining jobs for New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 would enable New York State, Columbia County, and the Town of Chatham to address pollution and public health threats in disadvantaged communities by directing at least 35% with a goal of 40% of the measure's funding to address hazardous conditions in such communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Chatham Town Council supports passage of the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022.

Offered by: Werwaiss, seconded motion: Hallenbeck

VOTE: AYE: Supervisor Collins, Councilmembers Mesick, Hallenbeck, Werwaiss
NAY: Pitkin Resolution adopted

Mesick - appreciates all the discussion, it may be frustrating but it is our job.

Collins - Thanks Pitkin for keeping his eye out for the taxpayer and raising his concerns on a very large bond act.

2. Climate Action Response Plan-County Collaboration

Tara Donadio - Spoke briefly on resolution #188-22.

Resolution#188-22: To Authorize the Town to Engage in a Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Planning

WHEREAS, on August 11, The Columbia County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to engage in a Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Planning led by Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia/Greene, on behalf of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC). This assistance is funded through NY DEC's Climate Smart Communities Outreach Coordinators Program and is available at no charge to the county, and additionally to any municipality within the county that would like to join this effort. Municipalities that participate will be able to develop their own community adaptation plan as well, and

WHEREAS, Municipalities who would like to engage in this county planning effort, including a plan for their own community, will need to adopt a resolution confirming your commitment to undertake the plan. As part of the process, the community should create a local advisory committee and appoint someone to serve as the main point of contact for the process, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Chatham confirms its commitment to undertake the aforementioned plan, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Chatham designates its Climate Smart Action Task Force as the necessary advisory committee, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Chatham appoints the Climate Smart Action Task Force Chairs; Rick Werwaiss; Deborah Conrad as main points of contact for the process.

Offered by: Werwaiss, seconded motion: Hallenbeck

VOTE:

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck, Werwaiss **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

Mesick - asked about the setup of the committee. Werwaiss responded - they'll use the existing Climate Smart Committee.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Eaton- thanks to the Board for their support and stated that the bond act is a no-brainer, it will help NYS itself but also allow the State to pursue federal dollars.

Moore - Bravo to all for doing this. It's a wonderful thing for our town to be among the leaders in this.

Tibideau - Thanked the Board for supporting the Bond Act. .

Unidentified - Thanks the Board for looking out for the residents of the Town.

- **MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING**

On a MOTION by Collins, second by Hallenbeck and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel, RMC
Town Clerk